

back layer 11, two active substance reservoirs 12, 13 and a removable protective layer 16 which covers both reservoirs 12, 13. Reservoir 12 adheres directly to the back layer 11, whereas reservoir 13 adheres to the back layer 11 by means of a peel-off layer 15. After removal of the protective layer 16, the plaster can be applied to human skin with both reservoirs 12, 13. If a reduction of the active substance release after a predetermined time is wanted, the back layer 11 can be removed together with reservoir 12, leaving reservoir 13 with its peel-off layer 15 on the skin. When removing back layer 11 with reservoir 12, back layer 11 is separated from the peel-off layer 15 with reservoir 13 because of the fact that the two active substance reservoirs 12, 13 adhere differently to the back layer 11. Column 4, line 58 to Column 5 line 2 reads:

“Active substance reservoir part 13 adheres to the back layer 11 by means of a peel-off layer 15, which brings about a **gradual** adhesion of the two active substance reservoir parts 12, 13 to the back layer...The adhesion of the first active substance reservoir part 13 to the skin must be greater than the adhesion between the peel-off layer 15 and the back layer 11.”
(emphasis added)

Accordingly, while one active substance reservoir part can completely surround one...other active substance reservoir parts (Column 3, lines 33-35 and 39), and the adhesion of both substance reservoir parts to the back layer may be different (Column 4, lines 60-61), this is different from the present invention wherein the layer of adhesive is to be applied to the skin. This layer of adhesive is composed of a core or of a first adhesive being a flowable adhesive and a ring of a second adhesive being an adhesive having reduced flowability. Contrary to this teaching, Hoffmann suggests a gradual adhesion not vis-à-vis the skin, but vis-à-vis the back layer of the plaster.

There is a difference between hard adhesives and adhesives with good flow behavior. Compared to an adhesive with good flow behavior, a very hard adhesive does not adhere well to the skin. On the other hand, compared to a hard adhesive, an adhesive with good flow behavior

leads to a so-called cold flow. The term "cold flow" means that a small amount of adhesives can escape at the cut edges of the final plaster during storage or when it is worn. The adhesive which has escaped can adhere to the packaging material or to the surrounding clothing or other articles which are in contact to the skin. Such plasters exhibit a cosmetically displeasing "dirty fringe". An object of the claimed plaster is to overcome these drawbacks of hard adhesives and adhesives with good flow behavior.

According to the invention the claimed plaster is provided with a layer of adhesive to be applied to the skin, wherein the layer possesses a core of adhesive being a flowable adhesive and a ring of adhesive being an adhesive having reduced flowability, wherein the ring surrounds the core. As set forth in the specification, hard adhesives do not adhere well to the skin.

Since the ring of the adhesive with reduced flowability forms a barrier for the core of the flowable adhesive, the displeasing "dirty fringe" is avoided. With the invention, there is no need to search for a balance between reduced flowability avoiding any "dirty fringe" and good flowability, sufficient to flow around unevennesses or roughnesses of the skin.

The prior art does not give any suggestion how to reach such a compromise. Contrary to the prior art, the invention offers a solution without any compromise. Thus, the adhesive of the core can really be a flowable adhesive flowing around unevennesses or roughnesses of the skin, resulting in a good bond to the skin. Not only does a good bond to the skin solve a mechanical problem but also offers an optimum permeation of the active substance towards and into the skin without any enhancer. Rather, the plaster according to Hoffmann would have to use an enhancer (Column 8, lines 15-16) to reach the same permeation rate, because the claimed plaster allows the use of an adhesive of a comparatively higher flowability.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims as presented are distinct from the art cited and a notice of allowance is therefore requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX (claims with markings):

1. (Amended) A flat [Flat] self-adhering plaster having a multi-layer construction and reduced cold flow, [characterized in that the] comprising a layer adhesive which attaches to skin having [possesses] a core of adhesive [being] which is a flowable adhesive and a ring of adhesive being an adhesive having reduced flowability to that of the core [which surrounds the] and said ring surrounding said core.
2. (Amended) A plaster [Plaster] according to claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] the core of adhesive contains a pharmaceutical or cosmetic active agent.
3. (Twice Amended) A plaster [Plaster] according to claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] the multi-layer construction comprises a cover, [a] the layer of adhesive [having a core of adhesive as well as having a ring of adhesive,] and removable carrier, which acts as a temporary cover and which is present on [the] a side of the layer of adhesive opposite the cover.
4. (Amended) A plaster [Plaster] according to claim 3, wherein [characterized in that] the cover consists essentially of a film of plastic, woven fabric or non-woven fabric.
5. (Twice Amended) A plaster [Plaster] according to claim 3, wherein [characterized in that] the carrier consists essentially of a film of plastic, paper or a laminate thereof.

6. (Twice Amended) A plaster [Plaster] according to claim 4, wherein [characterized in that] the film of plastic [is] consists essentially of a film of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene or polyvinyl chloride.

7. (Amended) A plaster [Plaster] according to claim 5, wherein [characterized in that] the carrier possesses a release coating.

8. (Amended) A plaster [Plaster] according to claim 7, wherein [characterized in that] the release coating consists essentially of a silicone layer or fluoro-silicone layer.